

IN THE CLAIMS:

1.7. Canceled.

8. (Previously Presented) The optical glass of claim 23, 24, 25 or 26, which has 0 to 5 % of Y_2O_3 .

9.-14. Canceled.

15. (Previously Presented) The optical glass of claim 23, 24, 25 or 26, wherein part of La_2O_3 is replaced with Gd_2O_3 and/or Y_2O_3 .

16. (Previously Presented) The optical glass of claim 23, 24, 25 or 26, wherein part of La_2O_3 is replaced with Gd_2O_3 and/or Y_2O_3 and the content of Li_2O is 0 to 1 % by weight.

17. (Previously Presented) A glass preform made of the optical glass recited in claim 23, 24, 25 or 26.

18. (Previously Presented) An optical product made of the optical glass recited in claim 23, 24, 25 or 26.

19. (Original) A process for the production of the optical product recited in claim 18, which comprises the steps of melting raw materials for a glass and directly press-molding a molten glass.

20. (Original) The process of claim 19, which further comprises the step of annealing a glass molded material obtained by the press-molding, after the step of directly press-molding a molten glass.

21. (Original) A process for the production of an optical product, which comprises the steps of softening the glass preform recited in claim 17 under heat and press-molding the glass preform softened under heat.

22. (Original) The process of claim 21, which further comprises the step of annealing a glass molded material obtained by the press-molding, after the step of press-molding the glass preform.

23. (Previously Presented) An optical glass having a refractive index n_d of at least 1.875, an Abbe's number v_d of at least 39.5 and a glass transition temperature of 700°C or lower and having a composition comprising, by % by weight,

6 – 9 %	SiO_2 ,
9 – 12 %	B_2O_3 ,
0 – 5 %	GeO_2 ,
0 – 15 %	ZnO ,
30 – 60 %	La_2O_3 ,
0 – 30 %	Gd_2O_3 ,
0 – 10 %	Y_2O_3 ,
0 – 5 %	Yb_2O_3 ,
2 – 8 %	ZrO_2 ,
13 – 19 %	Ta_2O_5 ,

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the total content of $\text{SiO}_2 + \text{B}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{GeO}_2$ being 16 to 19 %, the total content of $\text{B}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{ZnO}$ being at least 9 %, the total content of $\text{La}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{Gd}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{Y}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{Yb}_2\text{O}_3$ being 50 to 60 %, the total content of the above components being at least 95 %,

0 - 3 % Li_2O ,

the weight ratio of $\text{ZnO}/(\text{SiO}_2 + \text{B}_2\text{O}_3)$ being more than 0 but not more than 2,

the weight ratio of $(\text{La}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{Gd}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{Y}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{Yb}_2\text{O}_3)/(\text{SiO}_2 + \text{B}_2\text{O}_3)$ being from 2

to 4,

the weight ratio of $(\text{ZrO}_2 + \text{Ta}_2\text{O}_5 + \text{Nb}_2\text{O}_5)/(\text{SiO}_2 + \text{B}_2\text{O}_3)$ being from 1 to 2,

0 - 3 % Nb_2O_5 , and

0 - 1 % WO_3

wherein the optical glass does not contain HfO_2 .

24. (Previously Presented) An optical glass having a refractive index n_d of at least 1.875, an Abbe's number v_d of at least 39.5 and a glass transition temperature of 700°C or lower and having a composition comprising, by % by weight,

6 - 9 % SiO_2 ,

9 - 12 % B_2O_3 ,

0 - 5 % GeO_2 ,

0 - 15 % ZnO ,

30 - 60 % La_2O_3 ,

0 - 30 % Gd_2O_3 ,

0 - 10 % Y_2O_3 ,

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0 - 5 % Yb₂O₃,

2 - 8 % ZrO₂,

13 - 19 % Ta₂O₅,

the total content of SiO₂ + B₂O₃ + GeO₂ being 16 to 19 %, the total content of B₂O₃ + ZnO being at least 9 %, the total content of La₂O₃ + Gd₂O₃ + Y₂O₃ + Yb₂O₃ being 50 to 60 %, the total content of the above components being at least 95 %,

0 - 3 % Li₂O,

the weight ratio of ZnO/(SiO₂ + B₂O₃) being more than 0 but not more than 2,

the weight ratio of (La₂O₃ + Gd₂O₃ + Y₂O₃ + Yb₂O₃)/(SiO₂ + B₂O₃) being from 2 to 4,

the weight ratio of (ZrO₂ + Ta₂O₅ + Nb₂O₅)/(SiO₂ + B₂O₃) being from 1 to 2, and
0.5 - 1.5 % Nb₂O₅

wherein the optical glass does not contain HfO₂.

25. (Previously Presented) An optical glass having a refractive index nd of at least 1.875, an Abbe's number vd of at least 39.5 and a glass transition temperature of 700°C or lower and having a composition comprising, by % by weight,

6 - 9 % SiO₂,

9 - 12 % B₂O₃,

0 - 5 % GeO₂,

1 - 7 % ZnO,

30 - 60 % La₂O₃,

0 - 30 %	Gd ₂ O ₃ ,
0 - 10 %	Y ₂ O ₃ ,
0 - 5 %	Yb ₂ O ₃ ,
2 - 8 %	ZrO ₂ ,
13 - 19 %	Ta ₂ O ₅ ,

the total content of SiO₂ + B₂O₃ + GeO₂ being 16 to 19 %, the total content of B₂O₃ + ZnO being at least 12 %, the total content of La₂O₃ + Gd₂O₃ + Y₂O₃ + Yb₂O₃ being 50 to 60 %, the total content of the above components being at least 95 %,

0 - 3 %	Li ₂ O,
0 - 3 %	Nb ₂ O ₅ , and
0 - 1 %	WO ₃

wherein the optical glass does not contain HfO₂.

26. (Previously Presented) An optical glass having a refractive index nd of at least 1.875, an Abbe's number vd of at least 39.5 and a glass transition temperature of 700°C or lower and having a composition comprising, by % by weight,

6 - 9 %	SiO ₂ ,
9 - 12 %	B ₂ O ₃ ,
0 - 5 %	GeO ₂ ,
1 - 7 %	ZnO,
30 - 60 %	La ₂ O ₃ ,
0 - 30 %	Gd ₂ O ₃ ,

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0 - 10 %	Y ₂ O ₃ ,
0 - 5 %	Yb ₂ O ₃ ,
2 - 8 %	ZrO ₂ ,
13 - 19 %	Ta ₂ O ₅ ,

the total content of SiO₂ + B₂O₃ + GeO₂ being 16 to 19 %, the total content of B₂O₃ + ZnO being at least 12 %, the total content of La₂O₃ + Gd₂O₃ + Y₂O₃ + Yb₂O₃ being 50 to 60 %, the total content of the above components being at least 95 %,

0 - 3 %	Li ₂ O, and
0.5 - 1.5 %	Nb ₂ O ₅

wherein the optical glass does not contain HfO₂.

27. (New) An optical glass having a refractive index nd of at least 1.875, an Abbe's number vd of at least 39.5 and a glass transition temperature of 700°C or lower and having a composition consisting essentially of, by % by weight,

6 - 9 %	SiO ₂ ,
9 - 12 %	B ₂ O ₃ ,
0 - 5 %	GeO ₂ ,
0 - 15 %	ZnO,
30 - 60 %	La ₂ O ₃ ,
0 - 30 %	Gd ₂ O ₃ ,
0 - 10 %	Y ₂ O ₃ ,
0 - 5 %	Yb ₂ O ₃ ,

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2 - 8 % ZrO₂,

13 - 19 % Ta₂O₅,

the total content of SiO₂ + B₂O₃ + GeO₂ being 16 to 19 %, the total content of B₂O₃ + ZnO being at least 9 %, the total content of La₂O₃ + Gd₂O₃ + Y₂O₃ + Yb₂O₃ being 50 to 60 %, the total content of the above components being at least 95 %,

0 - 3 % Li₂O,

the weight ratio of ZnO/(SiO₂ + B₂O₃) being more than 0 but not more than 2,

the weight ratio of (La₂O₃ + Gd₂O₃ + Y₂O₃ + Yb₂O₃)/(SiO₂ + B₂O₃) being from 2 to 4,

the weight ratio of (ZrO₂ + Ta₂O₅ + Nb₂O₃)/(SiO₂ + B₂O₃) being from 1 to 2,

0 - 3 % Nb₂O₅, and

0 - 1 % WO₃.

28. (New) An optical glass having a refractive index nd of at least 1.875, an Abbe's number vd of at least 39.5 and a glass transition temperature of 700°C or lower and having a composition consisting essentially of, by % by weight,

6 - 9 % SiO₂,

9 - 12 % B₂O₃,

0 - 5 % GeO₂,

0 - 15 % ZnO,

30 - 60 % La₂O₃,

0 - 30 % Gd₂O₃,

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0 - 10 % Y_2O_3 ,

0 - 5 % Yb_2O_3 ,

2 - 8 % ZrO_2 ,

13 - 19 % Ta_2O_5 ,

the total content of $\text{SiO}_2 + \text{B}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{GeO}_2$ being 16 to 19 %, the total content of $\text{B}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{ZnO}$ being at least 9 %, the total content of $\text{La}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{Gd}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{Y}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{Yb}_2\text{O}_3$ being 50 to 60 %, the total content of the above components being at least 95 %,

0 - 3 % Li_2O ,

the weight ratio of $\text{ZnO}/(\text{SiO}_2 + \text{B}_2\text{O}_3)$ being more than 0 but not more than 2,

the weight ratio of $(\text{La}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{Gd}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{Y}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{Yb}_2\text{O}_3)/(\text{SiO}_2 + \text{B}_2\text{O}_3)$ being from 2 to 4,

the weight ratio of $(\text{ZrO}_2 + \text{Ta}_2\text{O}_5 + \text{Nb}_2\text{O}_3)/(\text{SiO}_2 + \text{B}_2\text{O}_3)$ being from 1 to 2, and

0.5 - 1.5 % Nb_2O_5 .

29. (New) An optical glass having a refractive index n_d of at least 1.875, an Abbe's number v_d of at least 39.5 and a glass transition temperature of 700°C or lower and having a composition consisting essentially of, by % by weight,

6 - 9 % SiO_2 ,

9 - 12 % B_2O_3 ,

0 - 5 % GeO_2 ,

1 - 7 % ZnO ,

30 - 60 % La_2O_3 ,

0 – 30 %	Gd ₂ O ₃ ,
0 – 10 %	Y ₂ O ₃ ,
0 – 5 %	Yb ₂ O ₃ ,
2 – 8 %	ZrO ₂ ,
13 – 19 %	Ta ₂ O ₅ ,

the total content of SiO₂ + B₂O₃ + GeO₂ being 16 to 19 %, the total content of B₂O₃ + ZnO being at least 12 %, the total content of La₂O₃ + Gd₂O₃ + Y₂O₃ + Yb₂O₃ being 50 to 60 %, the total content of the above components being at least 95 %,

0 – 3 %	Li ₂ O,
0 – 3 %	Nb ₂ O ₅ , and
0 – 1 %	WO ₃ .

30. (New) An optical glass having a refractive index nd of at least 1.875, an Abbe's number vd of at least 39.5 and a glass transition temperature of 700°C or lower and having a composition consisting essentially of, by % by weight,

6 – 9 %	SiO ₂ ,
9 – 12 %	B ₂ O ₃ ,
0 – 5 %	GeO ₂ ,
1 – 7 %	ZnO,
30 – 60 %	La ₂ O ₃ ,
0 – 30 %	Gd ₂ O ₃ ,
0 – 10 %	Y ₂ O ₃ ,

0 - 5 % Yb_2O_3 ,

2 - 8 % ZrO_2 ,

13 - 19 % Ta_2O_5 ,

the total content of $\text{SiO}_2 + \text{B}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{GeO}_2$ being 16 to 19 %, the total content of $\text{B}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{ZnO}$ being at least 12 %, the total content of $\text{La}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{Gd}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{Y}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{Yb}_2\text{O}_3$ being 50 to 60 %, the total content of the above components being at least 95 %,

0 - 3 % Li_2O , and

0.5 - 1.5 % Nb_2O_5 .

31. (New) The optical glass of claim 27, 28, 29 or 30, which has 0 to 5 % of Y_2O_3 .

32. (New) The optical glass of claim 27, 28, 29 or 30, wherein part of La_2O_3 is replaced with Gd_2O_3 and/or Y_2O_3 .

33. (New) The optical glass of claim 27, 28, 29 or 30, wherein part of La_2O_3 is replaced with Gd_2O_3 and/or Y_2O_3 and the content of Li_2O is 0 to 1 % by weight.

34. (New) A glass preform made of the optical glass recited in claim 27, 28, 29 or 30.

35. (New) An optical product made of the optical glass recited in claim 27, 28, 29 or 30.

36. (New) A process for the production of the optical product recited in claim 35, which comprises the steps of melting raw materials for a glass and directly press-molding a molten glass.

37. (New) The process of claim 36, which further comprises the step of annealing a glass molded material obtained by the press-molding, after the step of directly press-molding a molten glass.

38. (New) A process for the production of an optical product, which comprises the steps of softening the glass preform recited in claim 34 under heat and press-molding the glass preform softened under heat.

39. (New) The process of claim 38, which further comprises the step of annealing a glass molded material obtained by the press-molding, after the step of press-molding the glass preform.